

PROUTY TAXATION FIGURES UNSOUND

(Continued from First Page.)

taxation, and then to elicit the people of the city in order that they may find elsewhere some means of self-support?

Washington and New Orleans.

The cities nearest to Washington in population are New Orleans and Minneapolis, the former a little larger, the latter a little smaller; both richer in taxable resources and means of local self-support and money-making, both suffering less than Washington from transient non-taxpaying percentage of population. The tax levies and per capita tax levies of the three cities are close together, indicating that Washington is taxed today substantially as the taxpayers of those American cities most closely approximating it in size and resources; and the moral is that Washington is already bearing with less resources and greater drawbacks and disabilities the same tax burdens that are endured by these typical American cities, and as a consequence that in fairness its tax burden should not be increased artificially a single dollar, in addition to the natural increase from its steady growth.

	Per cap.	Total tax
New Orleans...	\$12.76	\$12,760,000
Minneapolis...	\$12.76	\$12,760,000

All three cities are over 300,000 in population and consequently the country tax is figured by the census in the tax levies. Minneapolis thus gets the benefit of this special addition to her tax levy, while Washington suffers from the non-inclusion in the census calculation of the tax on the gross incomes of public service corporations in lieu of personal taxes. This revenue in Washington's case heavily increases the tax derived from this source being greater than that derived from the personal tax on individuals. Yet it does not figure at all in the total and per capita tax levy.

The revenue from this source is for Washington, \$1,326,290; for Minneapolis, \$1,326,290; and for New Orleans, \$1,326,290. In neither New Orleans, Minneapolis nor any other American city is so small a fraction of the city's area assessed and taxed; in no other city is so large a percentage of the city's area and of the city's realty improvements, great buildings and industrial plants, exempt from taxation.

In view of all the conditions affecting Washington's comparative tax burden and they have been exhaustively discussed in editorial correspondence of The Star of March 14, 1914, the present per capita and total tax levies of Washington represent the full reasonable tax burden imposed upon themselves by American cities approximating Washington in population and other municipal conditions.

Delusion of Vast Wealth.

Messrs. Prouty, Johnson, Crisp and H. J. Brown affirm that Washington's reasonable tax burden, instead of being five, six or seven millions, like that of Minneapolis, New Orleans, Milwaukee, Newark, etc., is fifteen millions, much greater than St. Louis (\$12,354,918), Cleveland (\$10,619,867), Buffalo (\$9,425,731) or Baltimore (\$8,843,065). The small taxed fraction of Prouty's Washington, fabulously wealthy, though comparatively destitute of visible taxable resources, can, he says, bear a tax burden as great as those of wealthy, rich and populous Baltimore and Minneapolis combined, or Buffalo and New Orleans combined, or St. Louis and St. Paul combined.

Mr. Prouty's speech of last session contains a table which gives the figures of expenditure of the states of the Union, the entire expenses of the state, including the pay of all state officers, its legislature and the maintenance of its universities, eleemosynary institutions, penitentiaries and state departments. These figures may be combined with the census figures concerning city's tax burdens to put in an even more striking light the excessive and bankrupting tax burden proposed by Mr. Prouty for Washington.

Washington's tax burden at \$15,000,000 would be only a little less than that of St. Louis (\$12,354,918) and of Missouri (\$12,354,918) combined; about the same as Baltimore (\$8,843,065), Maryland (\$2,757,290) and Georgia (\$2,757,290) combined, or Baltimore, Maryland and Louisville (\$2,444,226) combined, or Baltimore, Maryland and two cities of Des Moines (\$2,074,781) combined. Washington's tax burden would be equal to that of Louisville (\$2,444,226) and all Kentucky (\$4,908,552) combined, or Atlanta, Ga. (\$1,535,344) combined. Is it reasonable for Johnson, Prouty and Crisp to impose upon the resourceless small owners of the tiny taxed fraction of Washington a burden as great in dollars as the combined burdens of Louisville and of Kentucky and of Des Moines and of Iowa and of Atlanta?

Mr. Prouty proposes to crush the 50,000 taxpayers of Washington, only about 300 of whom, including corporations, pay over \$1,000 in annual taxes, and 10,000 of whom are small home owners, with a tax burden only a little less than those of Detroit (\$9,827,577) and all Michigan (\$5,909,824) combined, about the same as those of Cincinnati (\$7,583,515) and all Ohio (\$7,583,515) combined; considerably more than Minneapolis (\$5,822,241), St. Paul (\$5,754,127) and all Minnesota (\$5,822,241) combined; considerably more than Milwaukee (\$5,822,241), Wisconsin (\$5,822,241), Charleston, S. C. (\$4,736,362) and South Carolina (\$4,736,362) combined; more than New Orleans (\$4,736,362), all Louisiana (\$4,736,362) and all Louisiana (\$4,736,362) combined; and more than all New Jersey (\$4,736,362), Jersey City (\$4,736,362) and Indianapolis (\$4,736,362).

with other cities or states amounting to two and one-half millions thrown in for good measure.

Imaginary Bankrupting Riches.

Is not the proposition reduced to an absurdity? Prouty, Johnson and Crisp for taxation and confiscation purposes impute such vast imaginary values to Washington realty and personality as to threaten to deprive this property of all real value and to bankrupt these unhappy Croesuses, destroying them with the weapon of their own alleged but non-existent wealth. The imputation of riches which they have not is used to rob them in excessive taxes of the little which they really have.

Does any one suppose that Washington, if it could by any possibility bear the tax burden of Baltimore and Minneapolis combined, and could meet from its own resources the full expenses of capital maintenance and up-building, would endure for a moment the government of an anti-District House District committee exercising unsympathetically, unfairly and despotically and even cruelly the power of exclusive legislation over it intrusted to Congress by the Constitution?

If these imaginary taxable resources really existed Washington would demand and secure the American privilege of taxing itself for municipal purposes, and the American right of representation on the same basis as other Americans in the Congress and the electoral college.

The imaginary wealth of Washington consists of: First, realty assessed on the single-tax basis up to a point where through excessive and unendurable taxation private ownership may be destroyed, and by virtuous robbery of the individual on the single-tax principle the state may come into possession of its own. The imputation of vast wealth is not designed to enrich, in fact, the Washingtonian, but to destroy him as a property owner, to deprive him of all value and to take it away from him. Being in fact a wealthy supporting individual of small means, he is called, so far as private land ownership is concerned, a Dives in order to transform him into a Lazarus. The second item of Washington's imaginary wealth is one or two or three hundred millions of intangible personality which multi-millionaire tax dodgers are alleged to have brought here from various states of the Union. Assuming that such persons have been brought here, it is not an available tax resource of the capital. Washingtonian as a property owner, taking jurisdiction where intangible resources are not assessed for taxation, and whoever millions, if any, have been brought here to escape taxation would promptly go elsewhere if taxed.

The exaggeration of riches in both aspects tends to bankrupt and impoverish. It imputes too great riches in order to destroy the small resources actually enjoyed. The Washingtonian is bloated verbally into the aspect of vast wealth in order that he may be financially destroyed. He is like the Pasha in Marryat's novel who is described as a man whose head is elevated somewhat above those of his fellows in order that he may be the more conveniently decapitated.

If Congress were convinced of the accuracy of Mr. Prouty's figures and believed Washington to possess the alleged enormous taxable resources it ought not to impose the taxation proposed. It should withdraw the nation from financial participation in capital upbuilding and leave this community, blessed with such taxable resources to tax itself. If Washington can raise easily an annual tax levy of \$15,000,000 the nation should take no part in financing the municipality; and as a logical and necessary sequence it should take no part in determining what amount and by what methods and for what purposes the community shall be taxed.

RAIL STRIKES AVERTED BY BOARD OF MEDIATION

Submits Report of Work Accomplished During First Year of Its Existence.

That there have been twenty-eight cases of differences between railroad employers and their employees, involving 124,503 of the latter, brought to the attention of the United States board of mediation and conciliation during the first year of its existence is information contained in the first annual report of that body, submitted to President Wilson yesterday by William L. Chambers, the commissioner. The board was established by act of Congress, approved July 12, 1913.

Some of these cases were submitted by one side; some by the other, and some jointly, and in all except two strike votes had actually been taken before the services of the board were requested. There have been, however, but two instances where this vote became effective, and this for a short time only. In other words, no railroad strike of any serious consequence has occurred in this country during the first year of the operation of the board.

In one of the cases where the strike vote did become effective the request for mediation services was not received until late in the evening, and the strike was set for 6 o'clock next morning. It lasted, however, but twelve hours. In the other case the application for mediation was received from one of the parties, but it was declined by the other. An amicable adjustment was reached, nevertheless, with no destruction to property and with but slight detriment to public interest.

Of the twenty-eight cases, twenty-one were adjusted wholly through mediation and two by arbitration and mediation combined. In but five cases was it necessary to submit all matters in controversy to boards of arbitration.

The Society Clothes Shop Announces Its First Annual Mid-Winter Clearance Sale of Society Brand Clothes AND OTHER GOOD CLOTHES An Absolute and Complete Clearance of All Winter Suits and Overcoats at Substantial Price Reductions

This most important of sales embraces positively every garment in the Society Clothes Shop—the complete unbroken lines of Society Brand—Aristocrat-ic and other well known brands of Suits and Overcoats and the celebrated Aquascutum London Overcoats—the finest ready-for-service clothes in the world—at the lowest prices at which these clothes have ever been sold in Washington.

The selection of styles and materials is unquestionably the largest in this city—nowhere else will you find half the variety or volume of clothing displayed as at the Society Clothes Shop. This sale, therefore, assumes the proportions of a veritable event—in fact, the greatest clothing sale of the National Capital.

We want to emphasize this point—this annual Midwinter Clearance Sale and the annual Summer Clearance Sale are the only two sales of the whole year in Society Brand Clothes—the only two opportunities to buy these world-renowned clothes at less than regular price.

Society Brand Clothes have been made famous throughout the world through leading periodicals and national press as the foremost clothes for young men and men who stay young. Hence the Society Clothes Shop feels a particular thrill of satisfaction in being able to give its patrons such clothes at prices so far below the regular scale.



No Charge
for
Alterations

Sale Starts Friday Morning

\$15.00 Suits and Overcoats	\$10.50	\$27.50 Society Brand Suits and Overcoats	\$20.50
\$17.50 Aristocrat-ic Suits and Overcoats	\$12.50	\$30.00 Society Brand Suits and Overcoats	\$22.50
\$20.00 Aristocrat-ic Suits and Overcoats	\$14.50	\$32.50 Society Brand Suits and Overcoats	\$24.50
\$22.50 Aristocrat-ic Suits and Overcoats	\$16.50	\$35.00 Society Brand Suits and Overcoats	\$26.50
\$25.00 Society Brand Suits and Overcoats	\$18.50	\$40.00 Society Brand Suits and Overcoats	\$29.50

All \$25 Silk Lined Tuxedo Suits \$14.75

A Lot of 200 Overcoats
Convertible and shawl collar styles—plain
cloths and fancy mixtures; sizes 32 to 38
only; broken lots; not all sizes of every kind.
Were \$12.50 to \$17.50, at..... \$9.50

Young Men's English
Cut \$40 Silk Lined Full-
Dress Coats \$29.50
& Trousers.

Think of the Wearing Time Ahead of You

It's not January yet—and there are still three and a half months of winter in which to have the good of these superb clothes. It's only December—the heart of the clothing season, and you get the price savings that usually come only at the end of the season.

Plenty of extra salesmen—you'll find the service excellent.

Society Brand Clothes

In the Third Floor Shoe Store

We are showing a number of new "spat" top shoes for men and young men, with tops of buckskin. They're mighty distinctive—the kind of footwear that goes well with good clothes. Hand-work where it tells.

Seven Dollars

The Society Clothes Shop at

Hechts

Seventh Street

Imported and Domestic Silk Scarfs

...75c and \$1.00 Four-in-hands of rare elegance, in every imaginable design and color combination. Large open-end shapes. At the price we firmly believe the values to be the best of the season. Put a couple down on your Christmas list.

Fifty-five Cents

Adolph Kahn's Big Xmas Sale

We claim and we can prove absolutely that our prices are from 25% to 1/3 lower than you can buy like quality at any store in Washington. Here are a few specials to give an idea of the values.

LARGEST STOCK OF MESH BAGS IN WASHINGTON.



The Mesh Bag illustrated is in German silver; it is something new and superior to anything you have seen of this line elsewhere; the links are soldered and guaranteed to wear like sterling silver.

Beautiful and durable bag that will give you service. \$12 Mesh Bags \$7.50

\$12 Shaving Stands, plated	\$8.00
\$8 and \$10 Sterling Silver Vanity Cases and Coin Holders; all silver lined	\$6.00
\$1.00 Signet Rings, Solid Gold	\$2.50
\$8.00 Signet Rings, 14-karat Gold	\$5.00
\$15.00 Gold Lockettes	\$10.00
\$8 Solid 14-karat Gold Cuff Buttons	\$5.00
Finest Sterling-plated China and Porcelain	\$5.00

Cuff Buttons and Monogram Fobs

\$15 and \$18 Solid Gold Sawed Out Monogram Cuff Buttons, Special Xmas price	\$10.00
\$15 and \$18 Solid Gold Sawed Out Monogram Fobs	\$10.00

A. Kahn, 935 F Street